

Message Text

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43

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 /032 W

----- 128294

R 300912Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2887

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DAVE OBEY, D-WISC), SY

SUBJECT: CODEL OBEY VISIT TO PORTUGAL, GREECE, AND NEA EAST

REF: STATE 173471

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY WELCOMES CODEL OBEY AND PROPOSES SCHEDULE OUTLINED BELOW. WOULD APPRECIATE CODEL'S COMMENTS ON SCHEDULE SO WE MAY FIRM UP APPOINTMENTS AND GUEST LISTS.

2. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE OBEY, EDWARD KOCH, AND JOSEPH EARLY AND FSO ESCORT OFFICER JAMES R. CHEEK. GIVEN INTEREST OF CODEL SET FORTH PARA 1, REFTEL, AND LACK OF US MILITARY AID TO SYRIA, WE ARE DEVELOPING PROGRAM DIRECTED TOWARD MATTERS RELATED TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC AID.

3. OUR PROPOSED PROGRAM FOLLOWS (ALL TIMES LOCAL):

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1975:

1800 -- ARRIVAL DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FROM

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CAIRO VIA SYRIAN ARAB AIRWAYS FLT RB-352 (N.B., RB 352

ETA IS 1800 VICE 1700 NOTED IN REFTEL). MET UPON ARRIVAL BY AMBASSADOR RICHARD W. MURPHY, CONTROL OFFICER RODERICK M. WRIGHT (ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER), AND DENNIS CHANDLER, ACTING AID REPRESENTATIVE. PROCEED TO DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL WHERE FOUR SINGLE ROOMS WITH BATHS HAVE BEEN RESERVED.

1915 -- BRIEFING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE BY EMBASSY AND AID STAFF CONCERNING US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

2030 -- STAG WORKING DINNER AT RESIDENCE HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR TO WHICH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL BE INVITED, ALONG WITH EMBASSY AND AID PERSONNEL. IN OUR OFFICIAL NOTE TO SARG CONCERNING CODEL WE HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR CODEL WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. AS PRESIDENT PREFERS EVENING MEETINGS OR SOMETIMES EARLY AFTERNOON APPOINTMENTS, CODEL COULD BE CALLED OUT OF DINNER FOR THIS MEETING (AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE). IF HE IS AVAILABLE, TIME OF APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO MEETING.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1975:

0900 -- APPOINTMENT WITH EITHER MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE DR. MOHAMMAD AL-IMADI OR DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AFFAIRS ENG ISSAM HILOU (BOTH US-EDUCATED) AND POSSIBLY MOHAMMAD ALI HALABI, PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY (I.E., SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT). WE PURPOSELY KEEPING MORNING SCHEDULE LIGHT PENDING DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN DAMASCUS THAT CODEL MAY BE ARRANGING INDEPENDENTLY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE BRIEFING AT FIGEH WATER SUPPLY OFFICE, RECIPIENT OF \$48 MILLION AID PROJECT LOAN IN FY 1975.

1330 -- SHUYRT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE (HAVING ALREADY CHECKED OUT OF HOTEL) AND 1500 DEPARTURE IN EMBASSY VEHICLE FOR AMMAN OR 1430 DEPARTURE FOR AIRPORT (30 MINUTE DRIVE) TO PICK UP "ARAB WINGS" EXECUTIVE JET FOR FLIGHT TO AMMAN IF CODEL SO DECIDES (AS SUGGESTED AMMAN 5115).
MURPHY

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